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DEBT TO BE EXPECTED FROM THIS WAR.

We had prepared for this number a long and elaborate article on the *War-debts of Europe*, amounting in 1840 to 10,500,000,000 *German* dollars, probably full ten thousand millions of *Spanish* dollars, and imposing a fearful incubus on the labor, prosperity, and happiness of the masses throughout the Old World. Our limits will not now admit this article; but we cannot refrain from re-echoing the voice of warning addressed to us by the late Sidney Smith, so early as 1820, in the *Edinburgh Review*:

“We can inform Jonathan what are the inevitable consequences of being too fond of glory. Taxes upon every article which enters the mouth, or covers the back, or is placed under the feet; taxes upon every thing which it is pleasant to see, hear, feel, smell or taste; taxes upon warmth, light and locomotion; taxes upon every thing on the earth, and in the waters under the earth; taxes on every thing that comes from abroad, or is grown at home; taxes on the raw material, and upon every fresh value that is added to it by the industry of man; taxes on the sauce that pampers man’s appetite, and the drug that restores him to health; on the ermine which decorates the judge, and the rope which hangs the criminal; on the poor man’s salt, and the rich man’s spice; on the brass nails of the coffin, and the ribbons of the bride. Taxes we never escape; at bed or board, couchant or levant, we must pay. The school-boy whips his taxed top; the beardless youth manages his taxed horse, with a taxed bridle, upon a taxed road; and the dying Englishman, pouring his medicine which has paid seven per cent., into a spoon that has paid fifteen per cent., flings himself back upon his chintz bed which has paid twenty-two per cent., makes his will on an eight pound stamp, and expires in the arms of an apothecary who has paid a license of a hundred pounds for the privilege of putting him to death. His whole property is immediately taxed from two to ten per cent. Besides the probate, large fees are demanded for buying him in the chancel; his virtues are handed down to posterity on taxed marble; and then he is gathered to his fathers—to be taxed no more.”

HOME SPIRIT OF THE WAR:

OR, PROGRESS OF THE MILITARY MANIA AT HOME.

It is startling to trace, in the course of this war, the developements at home of a war-spirit becoming more and more unprincipled and reckless. We were at first to annex Texas without any cause or danger of war; but it was in due time avowed even in Congress, as now it is pretty generally admitted, that annexation was a virtual commencement of hostilities against Mexico. The war, when declared by our government, was

merely to repel invasion — invasion by Mexicans on soil till then occupied only by themselves! but anon we see our troops rushing across the Rio Grande in hot chase after bootless battles to be won on territory confessedly Mexican. The very designations of our army, mark the stealthy but steady disclosure of their ultimate aims, the progress of conscious but determined wrong, — first an Army of Observation, next an Army of Occupation, and finally an Army of Invasion with a witness and a vengeance. Still our rulers seek only to conquer a peace! but, after the signal victories of Monterey and Buena Vista, at Vera Cruz, at Cerro Gordo, and around the city of Mexico itself, peace seems as remote and hopeless as ever. We have done our worst; but Mexico, after all, will not tamely submit to our dictation; and what new form of mischief and vengeance shall the war now assume? We hear anon from the Dantons and Marats of the press, the eager, unscrupulous panderers to popular profligacy, a wild outcry for “war to the knife,” for conquest, spoliation, and vengeance, for the subjugation and annexation of all Mexico! What a stride from simple resistance of alleged invasion to this climax of wholesale villany, as outrageous as Goth or Vandal ever perpetrated or conceived.

We shall make no apology for the severity of these remarks. It is high time to call things by their right names; and, when we hear men talking, and proposing to act, like savages or fiends, we shall not hesitate to class them with the company they have chosen, and to warn those whom they are seeking to seduce into their schemes of national robbery and outrage. They send their war-whoop over the land as if it were an echo of the people's voice; and it is quite time for all that have any regard for peace or justice, for honesty or decency, to rebuke such reckless instigators of rapacity, plunder and blood, claiming to speak in our name.

It were easy to verify these statements. When the progress of this war first disclosed the fact, that the chieftains of Mexico were restrained from peace by the hatred of the people against their invaders, our rulers resolved on carrying the war to their very hearths, and even robbing their churches to gratify the cupidity of our troops. It was only the prompt rebukes of the press, an indignant outburst from the community, and the certainty of losing its *Catholic* supporters, that seems to have driven the administration back from the execution of this purpose.

Mark the spirit developed by this war even in men professedly religious. Not long after its commencement, a pamphlet, published in Boston itself, and said to have been written by a Christian (!) minister, justified entirely our treatment of Mexico, and unblushingly urged the subjugation of that whole country as a high and sacred duty! as an act of benevolence to Mexico and the world!! “One clergyman in the South, at the first sound of the guns of Palo Alto, abandoning his flock, or perhaps arming and leading it with him, marched as a captain of volunteers to Matamoras, where he preached a sermon to a congregation of soldiers, representing them as the children of Israel, and the land of Mexico, which they were in, as the land of the Cannanites, flowing with milk and honey, which the

Lord gave them as their spoil ; and, more recently, the papers have informed us of another reverend gentleman, not, however, a soldier, who in a pulpit address, stretched the modern Canaan over the whole Mexican Isthmus and South America." Another man, declared to be "one of the best and purest in Pennsylvania," says, and his language was endorsed even by the organ of our national executive, — "*You think the war a 'horrid butchery ;' I think it the religious execution of our country's glorious mission, under the direction of divine Providence, to civilize and christianize and raise up from anarchy and degradation, a most ignorant, indolent, wicked and unhappy people !*"

Long ago, a Washington correspondent of a paper, representing the war party, said, "if Santa Anna still holds out, then we must take it for granted that the Mexican *people* want war to the knife ; and it will be time for our government to resort to the severest measures in order to make the war tell upon the population. It is to be hoped that our army will then forage on the enemy, lay every town and hamlet through which it passes, under heavy contribution, and instead of suffering the wealthy citizens to depart and withdraw to the interior, retain them as hostages for keeping the peace. As to paying rent for occupying the houses of the upper classes, we trust our brave troops will be quartered in them 'free gratis for nothing,' and handsomely entertained into the bargain. Indeed, if I am not very much mistaken, the order to forage on the enemy has already gone forth from the War Department, and will be promptly obeyed. We must not forget that the character of the war is considerably changed since the accession of Santa Anna. Before him we had reason to believe that the chiefs were for war, while the Mexican people were for peace ; for which reason our troops behaved as friends of the Mexican people, and merely *occupied* the places which it was their good fortune to capture. The case is now reversed. The present ruler or military chief, we have every reason to think, is disposed for peace ; while the masses will not let him act as he judges proper, and the latter, therefore, must sooner or later become the object of our national displeasure."

When Mexico, even though her capital was in the power of our army, still refused submission to terms which proposed to dismember her territory, and all the waste of treasure and blood in a war of sixteen months, which *was* to have ended in one or two, had given us neither peace, nor prospect of peace, we now hear from papers devoted to the administration, such outbursts as the following :

Baltimore Sun. — "Nothing but a *complete subjugation of Mexico* seems to answer the present emergency. Foraging on the enemy and levying contributions are at last agreed upon. The universal cry is (here, in Washington,) '*War in earnest ! war, not for peace, but for CONQUEST AND SUBJUGATION ;* a real, bona-fide war, which supports itself, and seizes on the enemy's treasure. *Unless we distress the Mexicans, carry destruction and loss of life to every fireside,* and make them feel a *rod of iron*, they will not respect us."

The Union, the Government Organ. — "Mexico must now be made to feel — and the sooner the better — that the question of the continuance of the war is, indeed, fast becoming to her a question of *national existence* ; then she is placing herself wholly beyond the pale of further forbearance at our hand ; and that henceforth, at least, this war is hers — the result of her own deliberate election — and so to be borne by her in the full extent of

its evils and its burdens. *Our work of subjugation and conquest must go on rapidly*, and with augmented forces, and, as far as possible, at the expense of Mexico herself. From Mexican contributions, levied and seized, if need be, by a strong hand, our armies must now be subsisted and supported in the field. The policy of forbearance and conciliation, is *now exhausted*. Henceforth we must seek peace, and *compel* it, by *inflicting upon our enemy all the evils of war.*"

The Constitutionalist, a paper at the South, bursts forth in this style : — "MEXICO MUST BE SUBJUGATED! She should be beleaguered by sea, and overrun by land. Every city in her territory should be occupied, and a military governor placed in command with adequate means to enforce his authority. Military contributions and internal taxes should be imposed upon her several departments. A municipal system should be organized for each, with tribunals of justice for the trial of causes, and the punishment of crime. There should be no other authority recognized throughout the whole country than that of the American Government. The Mexican President and the Mexican Congress should be treated as nullities. Their authority should be declared at an end, and *no overtures for peace, which they may by possibility hereafter make, should be listened to or recognized.* The Mexicans are an infatuated and demented people, with whom there can be no peace, except on such terms as *we* may force upon her. What terms they are to be, or *whether she is ever to be allowed to resume her place among the nations of the world*, as an Independent Power, is a question of policy and of magnanimity for the future solution of the American people."

The New Orleans Mercury, copied with approbation by the government organ, and thus thrown upon the community as another of its wicked feelers to see whether the people could be brought to support the atrocious scheme, or whether the conductors of the war must abandon this climax and consummation of its villainies, thus spoke : — "Let our armies begin immediately to radiate from the city of Mexico into all the Mexican States; and the moment there are three thousand men on an average in each of the Mexican States from New Mexico to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the country may be considered as conquered. Such a move on our part would so divide the forces of the Mexicans, that they could do nothing. We should have in our possession all their capitols, and all their capital of every description; and Mexico would thus be as completely conquered as any country ever was — conquered beyond the hope of recovery. And then, as a finishing stroke, our Government should *give freely of the Mexican domain to as many of our citizens as would emigrate.* This would soon fill up the country with *armed* Americans, who would *complete* not only the subjugation, but the *civilization* of Mexico."

Mark the real import of this proposal. Mexico, like Massachusetts and New York, has no *public domain*; the lands, like our farms, is the property of individuals; and hence the plan, so coolly recommended here under the implicit sanction of our executive, would be like turning every farmer, mechanic and merchant in the United States out of his possessions, and giving them all over to "as many citizens as would emigrate," sword in hand, from Russia or Turkey, to "complete the civilization" of our country!

"What, then, must be the process?" asks the National Intelligencer. "As in a mill, 'first come, first served'; and our entire soldiery, with the camp-followers, being upon the spot, will help themselves foremost, and of course to the best. The officers, each according to his grade, will take estates, from that of a viceroy down to a marquis; the mere rank

and file will help themselves out of the best of what is left, the ignobler but still rich landed estates of the *hidalgos* and *caballeros*; and, of course, each ousted Mexican will, with his immovables, hand over to him who thrusts him out, all personal property — money, plate, coaches, clothes, live-stock, &c. The work will naturally begin in the cities of which we now have possession; and palaces, banking-houses, the stores of wealthy merchants, &c., will be parcelled out, together with the ecclesiastical wealth, which is large, and not a whit less forfeited than every thing else. It will be *not* as when William the Norman won England for the plunder of his armed adventurers, and billeted them forever upon the castles and baronies of the ejected Anglo-Saxons; but our more civilized William will call over all Normandy and all Europe at his heels, and, as they flock in, turn every inhabitant, who has a roof or goods, out of house and home, and make of Mexico one universal land of worse than slaves — *leperos*, beggars.

“A project of robbery so ruthless and gigantic, the amazed world hath not heard, since Attila, Alaric, and Genseric, those scourges of the earth, broke with their barbarian multitudes upon the cultivated parts of Europe, and turned them into a desolation! It is true the detestable proposal must be rejected with a wide public indignation; but its very suggestion — not to speak of the countenance given it by our Government through its organ — is a shame to our country.”

As a specimen of the war-papers in New York at this juncture, take the following extracts from the *Sun*: — “PROVIDENCE HAS WILLED THIS war to unite and exalt both nations, which result we now believe is as certain and inevitable as any event in human destiny. Can it be that there is an intelligent American so blind and mad as calmly to propose that the United States, after being forced by the act of Mexico to enter her territory, &c., and plant our protecting banner over her ports, fortresses, and capitol, at the expense of thousands of precious lives, and millions of treasure, should at once, without indemnity for the past, present, or future, without accomplishing peace or justice, *abandon* THE SPLENDID PRIZE THAT HAS BEEN THRUST INTO OUR HANDS? * * * The glorious sierras and valleys of Mexico are fated to be linked to the mountains and prairies of the United States. * * * Politicians may connive, or quake and tremble as they will; Wilmot Provisos, Abolition and *Disruption of the Union*, are lost in the tremendous shout of the American people, MEXICO MUST NOT — SHALL NOT BE ABANDONED! * * Shall we resist Providence, that guides the course of nations? * * A CONTINENT for freedom; its boundary the icebergs on the north, the oceans east and west, and Central America, (UNTIL WE NEED IT,) on the south, and, short of that boundary, no human power can stop the irresistible current of the Anglo-Saxon race!”

REMONSTRANCES FROM THE PRESS.

It was no wonder that the virtue and good sense of the nation, if any were left, should protest against doctrines so abominable, and schemes so atrocious. Nor was it long before the secular press — no religious press in the land has, so far as we know, lent its sanction to *any part* of this war, — began to utter itself in the following strains: —